



Earth First!

ACTION UPDATE

No 18
JULY 95

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SELAR OPENCAST MINE

Selar Farm Nature Reserve has been established on the site of a proposed opencast mine in the Neath Valley, S. Wales. Destruction of a SSSI is still being halted despite an eviction order being obtained by shamefully named Celtic Energy. Many beautiful oaks are to be killed along with the "protected" watermeadow, which is being dug up and "relocated" half a mile down the road. A tree village is expanding rapidly. Walkways and about twenty tree houses have been built, but people are still needed. The local people have been amazingly supportive, some building treehouses and putting up walkways. The eviction is imminent. Village Fete Acoustic Gathering happening on Saturday 1st July, all day. Head up A470 from Cardiff, A465 towards Neath, turn off into Cwmwraich (7 miles from Aberdare), then go up Empire Avenue. Buses from Swansea or Aberdare. Contacts: Cardiff EFI 01222 383363. Camp Mobile: 0589 114899.

THANET WAY

The A299, Thanet Way, is a Euroroute crossing the North Kent coast designed to provide a faster link to the port of Ramsgate. The proposed route will destroy a vast amount of rural land and also bronze/iron age settlements. There are 4 occupied houses on the route, 2 of which are facing imminent eviction. Highpoint squat, which has a 39ft tower on the roof, is one of the sites facing eviction and immediate help is needed to barricade A National Day of Action held on June 1st disrupted work for the whole day. Total arrests under the CJA now amount to 38 but the construction company are 14 days behind schedule. Events include a march and pageant on June 17th and benefit gig on June 24th. Frequent actions. Contact the Blue Route Action Group 01227 770835 / 0378 693157(mobile).

MUNSTONIA EVICTION ALERT!

The No M11 Link Campaign have had a good tip-off suggesting that "MUNSTONIA", the very last house on the road route, is to be evicted from Tuesday 20th June. Campaigners have barricaded this old Victorian house, and built a tower on the roof. Munstonia can be found in Fillebrook Road, London E11. It's the only house remaining on one side of the road and the nearest Tube is Leytonstone, Central Line. For latest info contact 0181 527 4896 (No M11) or 01635 521770 (RoadAlert). Please give them a ring and find out if you are still able to help resist the eviction. Bring water, food, warm clothes, camera, torch, loo roll, candles, blankets etc. The No M11 Link Campaign are also seriously in debt, any funds would be most appreciated.

WELLS RELIEF ROAD

Preparatory work on the Wells "Relief" Road has begun although the main contract won't be signed until July 1st. Dodgy "archaeological survey work" (i.e. digging up a wildflower field) was stopped by EFlers on June 8th, and a camp was set up. Numbers are low but support is building after a town poll showed a majority of people oppose the scheme, which also goes through 2 school playing fields. The



camp has since been illegally evicted but there's lots more to come! On July 3rd there is a day of action (the first day of the main contract), meet 7am at the old railway bridge at Dulcote. For more info contact 01749 880639 or 01225 448556.

LEEDS OPENCAST

On Tuesday 30th May, 30 people stopped work at the Garforth opencast mine near Leeds, until about 20 riot police, armed with quick-cuffs, dragged protesters away by their quick-cuffed wrists (quick-cuffs are only meant for violent offenders and cause extreme agony). They used extreme physical force and arrested 19 people under the CJA - now bailed from all open cast mines in the country. They are due to appear in Wetherby magistrates court on the 4th July. The direct action sent a large message to quarrying firms who are applying for 8 other sites in the area. Local people and Leeds City Council have turned down the proposal for the mine, but have been overruled by national government. If you've ever been quick-cuffed or for more info, contact Leeds EFI 0113 262 9365.

M77 GLASGOW

To show the stupidity of the governments thinking (the M77 will cut 7 minutes off your journey into Glasgow, trashing its way through Pollok Estate), local cycle campaigners had a race. Setting off by train, bus, car and bike they paralleled the M77 route as closely as possible. The cyclist won, getting into the city centre 17 minutes before the car and train who were joint second. The bus was caught in a traffic jam! June 30th will be Glasgow Gridlock Day: come and have a party in the streets; bring bicycles, music and smiles to the poor car drivers of Glasgow. The 11 arrested at last months Climate Action Day gathering in Hope Street are due in court 3rd July - Support welcome.

To coincide with Alan Stewart MP's (defender of the right to assault hippies) next court case on 11th September, Glasgow EFl are planning a DIY conference for the weekend before to learn about DIY

culture and NON VIOLENT direct action. Details to be confirmed. A party against the CJA on 3rd June was a great success, with a minimal police presence. More parties planned. Contact Glasgow EFI 0141 2265066

PROTESTERS GALLUP TO THE POLLS!

A recent Gallup poll has shown that support for protests and NVDA is up amongst the public. The poll shows that 68% of people believe there are times when protesters are justified in breaking the law. Protesters who broke the law in disrupting motorway building have the support of 62%, while illegal protests against the building of a nuclear power station would have the backing of 70%. According to The Telegraph, "It suggests a growing disillusionment with the response of politicians and government to public opinion". However, according to The Editor, "Middle England needs the Riot Act read to it. The belief that it is sometimes right to break the law as a protest has spread out from the traditionally more anarchic classes - students, trade unionists, unilateralists - to embrace all sections of opinion including those who used to know better."

M65

On the 12th - 13th June, 72 protestors against the M65 appeared in Blackburn Magistrates Court. 13 were connected with the Darwen Road squats and the rest from the 6 day siege of Stanworth Valley. History will remember them as hero's, even if the court didn't! They were bailed to appear at later dates. Then the party started! 0161 861 7895.

LIVE EXPORTS

Action against Live Exports is continuing. Brightlingsea recently marked 100 days of protest with an action that resulted in over 60 arrests. The good news is that protests at Shoreham seem to have won. However the latest plan by exporters, Pan European Air, is to buy a small ex-military airfield in Wales. They recently toured Welsh farming areas appealing for donations of £1000 per farmer to help fund the scheme.

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EAST TIMOR

On 14th June 1994 35 activists entered British Aerospace's Stevenage site in protest at BAE's sale of 24 Hawk aircraft to Indonesia, a country whose dictatorship has killed around 1,000,000 people in East Timor. The tower used for testing components of the Hawks was occupied by six of the group, after they had discovered that part of the perimeter fencing had suffered sufficient 'metal fatigue' for a six foot hole to appear.

A large 'BAe = Murder By Proxy' banner was unfurled off the tower. A blockade of two of the entrances to the site also occurred as well as awareness raising activities in the town centre.

Perhaps the most amusing part of the action was the fact that the tower had an active phone line in it. Consequently it was turned into an impromptu 'Stop the Hawks Press Office'! 8 people were arrested but were released without charge. Contact 0171 561 1236.

SHELL

Protests against Shell's decision to sink the Brent Spar oil storage rig in the Atlantic releasing tonnes of highly toxic waste have escalated. Greenpeace have re-occupied the rig and are planning forecourt actions around Britain. Contact Greenpeace 0171 354 5100.

Over in Germany protests have reached a much higher level with a widespread consumer boycott. There has also been a spate of militant attacks against Shell with two petrol stations firebombed and one machinegunned! Shell are also involved in Nigeria where Ogoni tribes people protesting against the destruction of their lands by Shell have been killed. The Nigerian Military Dictatorship are currently holding their leader, Ken Saro-Wiwa on death row.

Anybody with good ideas about Shell Actions could apply to Shell's own 'Better Britain Campaign' on 0121 358 0744 for funding! Or maybe you just want to give them a ring and give them some useful suggestions on what to do with their money.

M66, MANCHESTER

Work has started on this destructive road through many houses and some of Greater Manchester's remaining green bits, with 'exciting land fill sites and other improvements'. The M66 Denton-Middleton forms the eastern arm of a 'motorway box' around the centre of the city, but the No M66 Campaign intend to stop the rot! There was a highly successful picnic and rally on Sunday 18 June, on the route, great fun was had by all. Squats are being opened up along the route so reserve your place now. Contact 0161 627 4862.

CRITICAL MASS

Once a month in cities & towns all over the world cyclists en masse take to the streets to show there is an alternative to pollution and congestion of the Car Culture. There is no organisation in charge - just individuals coming together to make it happen. Advice from a sympathetic police officer "keep it anonymous, as named organisers are responsible and could be fined under criminal law. If you need a contact address use a box number."

Join the Critical Mass in: Last Friday of every month: Aberdeen, Bath, Bradford, Cambridge, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Lancaster, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Sheffield, Southampton, Stoke, Wolverhampton, York. 1st Friday: Birmingham. 2nd Friday: Nottingham. 1st Saturday: Brighton.

If one is not happening in your town get on yer bike and make it happen. 600 attended the last one in London and 120 spent over 2 hours bringing the centre of Brighton to a stand still for five Saturdays ago. Some however have had smaller turn outs (about 6) but you have to start somewhere!



Picture from 'Criminal Element' by Kate Evens. Available from Justice? for £1.80 inc p&p.

LAND RIGHTS

At the end of May, the Land is Ours movement staged a successful week long occupation of an area of enclosed land in Nottingham. The six acre site at Radford was cleared of rubbish as a camp was set up and workshops held on sustainable living. The occupation aimed to highlight ordinary people's exclusion and lack of access to open spaces. Campaigners believe that the land which is due to become a car park would make a wonderful wildlife sanctuary and stress that it is an area heavily used by locals as a recreation site. Uninvited picnickers also reclaimed some of the beautiful 4000 acre estate of Viscount Parker, 9th Earl of Macclesfield, for several days. He didn't even notice they were there until the 'Oxford Times' told him!

McD'S DRAGGED THROUGH THE

CHIP-FAT.

Wednesday 28th June, will be the anniversary of the longest libel trial in history, the McLibel case. This is between McDonalds and 2 unemployed members of London Greenpeace who distributed leaflets criticising McD's. Join the picket outside The High Court in London from 9:30 until 11:30 on the day. McD's, according to the national press, are at present trying to pull out of the trial, without losing the right to sue people for libel in the future.

McDonalds credibility is dropping rapidly, as more and more unsavory facts are brought to light in the trial (Did you hear the one about the McDonald's representative who told Japanese business men that eating McD's would make them tall, blond and pale?) As Helen and Dave (from London Greenpeace) carry on with the case, more and more of the points that McD's claim are libelous (eg. barbaric treatment of animals, poor working conditions for employees) are being proven. This is spurring the normal press on to criticise the multi-national. The Independent recently drew a direct link between rising rat populations and the increase in McDonalds outlets. Contact London Greenpeace on 0171 7131269

A30

The Fairmile site (on the route of the A30 Honiton to Exeter road) is suffering from its own success at the moment. Acting as a tree climbing training camp and sending people to Wells, Thanet Way, and Selar has drained this beautiful camp of its more experienced climbers. More climbers and equipment are desperately needed as the contractors are expected to come in and remove the badgers from two setts along the route. You're at Glastonbury just down the road, come down and join in on the tree planning and other 'Reclaim the Land' schemes. Go down the A30 towards Exeter and Fairmile is about 8 miles before you get to Exeter. Head up past the church and you will see the camp. Contact 01404 815729 or 0385 2781576 (mobiles).

TRAVELLERS LEGAL SUPPORT

A special telephone advice service for Travellers has been set up by Cardiff Law School. This is in response to lack of access to legal advice that Travellers may experience. Travellers Legal Hotline 01222 874580.

FASLANE PEACE CAMP

Between August the 6th & 9th Faslane Peace Camp will be holding 4 days of actions at the Trident Nuclear Submarine base near Glasgow. This will be in commemoration of the radioactive slaughter of 250,000 people by the atomic bombs dropped on Nagasaki & Hiroshima, 50 years ago. It's also in protest against the continued planetary threat made by nuclear weapons & the nuclear power plants that produce materials for them.

The 4 days of actions will centre on the four elements: Earth, Air, Fire & Water. Bring shelter & 'equipment'. Vegan grub provided. The actions will be followed by a full moon celebration and an End of Action Party on Thursday 10th & Kilmartin Stones Free Festival 11th-13th. Contact 01436 820901.

NUCLEAR TESTING

After the French government's decision to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific there have been angry protests around the world. In Australia a French consulate was bombed and burnt to the ground by a group calling itself the 'Pacific Popular Front' whilst the Fire Brigade in one Australian city have said that if any

How to contact Earth First! Action Update.

By phone: 01222 363363; by post: Action Update c/o Cardiff EFi, PO Box 7, Cardiff, CF2 4XX; by FAX on 01222 640666; or finally by email to 'actionupdate@gn.apc.org' articles should reach us before the 20th of the month for inclusion in next months AU!
Send subscriptions/requests for bulk copies of AU to Dead Trees EFi. To subscribe to the free e-mail server give us your details. Please send us a donation or stamp if you can afford it (we rely on getting atleast £50 a month in donations to be able to send free subscriptions to community groups etc.).

French property catches fire they will save lives but let the property burn! Youth CND are organising weekly vigils outside the French Embassy against a snowballing program of civil disobedience.

This summer sees the 50th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Britain still insists on maintaining its Nuclear Weapons and there will be a rally in Trafalgar Square, London on July 16th entitled '50 Years under the Bomb', 1-4pm. Contact Youth CND 0171 607 3616.

REVOLUTIONARY PEDESTRIAN FRONT!

On Friday the 2nd June the RPF held their first action at the launch of the new Alfa Romeo. 'Tonight you will not witness the launch of the new Alfa Romeo, you will witness its demise,' they declared. As the RPF streamed into the building, suits and faces crumpled and they took the stage. 'Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We have come here tonight to declare war on your new car,' said one member. Another read out the new road deaths statistics. Security Guards began edging them towards the door when there was a clattering din and the car showered in flour, stinkbombs and yellow paint. Then they scattered... There were 4 arrests. Isn't it time the RPF were active in your area?

'RAVE AGAINST THE MACHINE'

On Sunday July 23rd, Reclaim the Streets will be having their next street party. Their previous one (attracting over 1000 people) turned a polluted London street into a sea of people, with music, entertainers and a free cake. Meet at Battlebridge Road behind Kings Cross Station at 1 pm. Phone 0171 254 2290 for details.

UNDERCURRENTS 3

Undercurrents 3, a video round up of direct action news is out now. Included are films on Pollak, live exports, suing the police, stag hunting, LAMB, global actions and Land Reform. Subscriptions for 4 issues are £20 (unwaged), £32 (waged). Send your cheques to: Small World Media, 46 Rymers Lane, Oxford. OX4 3LB. Phone 01865 712520.

Conscious Cinema has also been launched, setting up monthly cinemas around Britain to show what is happening in various campaigns. Contact 0171 272 5255. Camcorder / media training workshops for campaigns are also available. If you have a camcorder, get filming and send them the footage.

AGM ROUNDUP

Purchasing shares in companies with dodgy environmental dealings and then attending their Annual General Meetings is an increasingly used technique to exert pressure to stop pointless construction projects. There have been at least 4 recent major AGM actions. Costain, builders of the Cardiff Bay Barrage and bidding for the Newbury bypass were prepared for trouble and had an army of Group 4 security ready. As at the Tarmac AGM, environmental matters were placed on the agenda and the activists made sure that this dominated both meetings. Difficult questions were asked that the board failed to answer. Tarmac then set up an environmental advisory board...?? The Amec (builders of the M65) board refused to answer any more questions after the environment began to dominate their AGM. Some of the 40 activists present continued to ask questions on their ethical and environmental policies before being physically ejected from the meeting which had to be stopped. A least one person was assaulted by a share holder, LAMB (Lloyds And Midland Boycott) went to the Midland AGM.

SOLSBURY HILL "RECLAIM THE LAND"

Yeah! More fun at Solisbury Hill. There is a camp there for Fri. 11th - Mon. 14th August. Kids are welcome but if you're bringing dogs be careful 'cos it's sheep and cow season. Bring your tents/banners material, food, instruments and, most important, all your friends! This is what's gonna happen:

Friday 11th - Beacon on Solisbury Hill (just outside Bath) after dark; Music, Dancing etc.
Saturday 12th - Action and banner making in the morning followed by... Bath's biggest ever Critical Mass. Cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchairers, roller-skates etc. welcome but cars can bugger off! Meet 2pm at Bath Abbey Churchyard and Reclaim the Streets!

Sunday 15th - Daytrip to Siston Common, yet another place threatened by the road monster (this time the Avon ring road). Meet at Wharmley Station, Wharmley nr. Bristol at 2pm.

Monday 14th - Reclaim the Land action on site. Meet at trig point on Solisbury Hilltop 11am. Maybe the fence will fall over (again!) Contact SoS, 01225 448556

FREE MUMBA ABU-JAMAL!

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther and supporter of the radical green group MOVE, has been in prison in Philadelphia for over 13 years accused of murdering a cop.

Mumia is innocent. There is no forensic evidence linking him to the murder and numerous witnesses have identified another man as the killer. During the incident Mumia was shot in the stomach and nearly killed.

Mumia is a former Black Journalist of the Year, often described as the 'voice of the voiceless'. He is widely recognised as a powerful African-American advocate of green ideas and action. MOVE have been the subject of horrifying persecution by the American state operations of COINTELPRO (the same people who framed the murder of leading Black Panthers and the framing of American Indian Movement activists like Leonard Peltier as well as bombing US Earth Firsters!). In 1985 a MOVE household was bombed and machine-gunned by the Philadelphia authorities killing 5 adults and 6 children. Most MOVE members are now in prison. Mumia has been framed because of his political beliefs. HIS EXECUTION IS SET FOR 10PM THURSDAY AUGUST 17th.

Send a letter to Governor Tom Ridge, Main Capitol Building, Room 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120, USA demanding that Mumia Abu-Jamal must not be murdered by the State and calling for a fair trial. Protests and demonstrations have taken place at American Government buildings etc. all over the world. In Mumia's own words "Don't mourn, organise!" Contact: Friends of MOVE (Mumia Campaign), PO Box 3069, London SW9 8LU. (send a large SAE for detailed background on Mumia and MOVE) Tel: 0181 519 9228

WHATLEY QUARRY

Whatley Quarry in Somerset, the biggest hole in Europe (the quarry that is, not Somerset), is planning an extension to increase its ability to supply roadstone for such schemes as the Bathaston Bypass (Solisbury Hill) and the Wells 'relief' road. Local EFlers, Freedom Network and FoE (about 50 people altogether) gathered at 6am at the quarry on June 8th, D-locked the gates, obstructed the quarry rail link and blocked the lorries. They left at 9am (to get to the Wells relief road action) with nobody arrested or hurt... only to return that afternoon as planners and councillors wanted the quarry. Flares were let off, banners dropped and the blasting machine was made inoperational. Apparently it wouldn't start again when we'd left it either - oh dear! But as the FoE spokesperson said, 'people who are literally blowing up Somerset's countryside aren't in much of a position to complain about criminal damage.' More actions to compel Contact: Avon Gorge EFl: 01225 448556 or 01935 881975.

GREEN STUDENT NETWORK

From August 25-28, the Green Student Network will be having their Summer Camp in Mid Wales. Contact Adam 01703 315643 if you are interested. To obtain a copy of the new Green Student Magazine write to LGU Ecology Group, 2 Goulston Street, LONDON E1 (send an A4 SAE, and a donation)

EDITORIAL

Hello! It is the first time you've read Action Update or any similar publication then we hope you want to get involved. However, if you are new to campaigning and direct action you may feel a bit daunted (we still do). This movement is based on people coming together and acting, but there is no solid structure or hierarchy. The people are more important than any banner they may go under, so get yourself out there and start meeting them! And, if you're a hardened veteran please remember what it was like on your 1st action and look out for the newcomers.

We rely on people sending us articles about what happening in their area (150 words max), so get them in! Also, please try and be truthful about what happened. If there were only 2 of you say so - you might actually inspire others if you would like a master copy of Action Update to photocopy and distribute please write and we will regularly send it and we'll put them in the group mailings. We rely on donations to be able to print and distribute Action Update to groups, so please donate anything you can afford (stamps or cheques).

DISCLAIMER: This publication isn't intended to incite you to do stuff - It's a shocking expose of the intolerable behaviour of anarchist troublemakers...we will name names!

DIARY DATES

JUNE

20th: First of weekly vigils/actions - 7.30 pm - outside French Embassy Against Nuclear Testing 0171 607 3616 (Youth CND).

27th: Tues: 7.30pm Munstoria (M01 Link Road) Benefit GJ. Admission Negotiable.

28th Wed: McLibel 1st Anniversary Picket outside High Court, London. 9.30-11.30.

30th Fri: Glasgow Gridlock. Stop the Traffic. 0141 226 5066

JULY

1st Sat: Gwmgwrach at first ever opencast protest camp. Selar, Cwmgrach (6 miles from Aberdare), West Glamorgan. Music, poetry, walks, actions. 01222 383363

1st-10th: Flypost for Freedom! Send large SAE to Freedom Network for posters.

2nd-5th: Trial of Wimpey Crane Sitters around CJA, Manchester. 0161 2744665

3rd Mon: Wells Relief Road Action, 7am at the old railway bridge at Dulcote. Contact BA 01749 880639.

3rd Mon: Glasgow Climate Action Day court case. 10pm Glasgow County Sheriffs Office. 041 2265066

7th-9th: Major Ant CJA Free Festival - somewhere in south middle England. 0171 501 9253

8th Sat: March Against Coventry North - South Link Road. 0973 241521

15th: National Rally Against Habitat Destruction, Newbury - possibly postponed. 01635 521770

16th Sun: 50 Years under the Bomb - Rally Trafalgar Square 1-4pm. 0171 607 3616

17th-23rd: International Forest Action Camp, Norway. Training on forest direct actions. Fax: +46 60 612506

23rd Sun: 1pm: Rave Against The Machine (Reclaim the Streets) meet at Battlebridge Road Behind Kings Cross Station. 0171 254 2290.

26th-30th: Big Green Gathering, Wiltshire 01747 870667.

28th-31st: Selfield Women's Peace Camp. 01706 371387

AUGUST

1st-18th: Ecologia 95 Poland, 00 31 20 665 7743 - seriously big environmental gathering / communal living experience.

4th-7th: Shut Selfield Camp and Actions. 01706 371387

6th-9th: Nagasaki NVDA, Faslane Peace Camp, Scotland. 01436 829091

11th-14th: Solisbury Hill Summer Gathering. Actions, Music and Fun! 01225 448556.

12th Sat: Hunt Sabs Day of Action, Northern England 0115 959 0357

14th-19th: Democracy & Ecology Conference, West Coast of Scotland 0131 229 9052

25th-28th: Green Student Network Summer Camp, Mid Wales. Contact Adam 01703 315643

SEPTEMBER

9-11th September. Glasgow DIY conference??? 0141 2255066

22nd-24th: Earth First! National Gathering, Lancashire. Workshops, help needed 0151 794 4167. (Space limited)

OCTOBER

28th Sat: Anti-Corporations Fair: 11am-8pm. Conway Hall, London. 0171 713 1269.

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Mid-Somerset EFL
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5 High St
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Somerset BA6 9PU
01458 831545

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0114 2534144
bigboss@psh.su.ac.uk

Solsbury Hill Action Group
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Bath, Avon, BA1 5BW
01225 446556
Solent Spanners
c/o South Hampshire
Freedom Network
October Books
Onslow Road
Southampton
01704 512790

South Downs EFL
c/o Prior House
Tisbury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY
Stroud Valleys EFL
39 Bowbridge Lock
Stroud
Glos GL5 2JY
01453 757642

Swansea EFL
c/o Freedom Collective
PO BOX 235
Mumbles
Swansea SA3 4YV
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Wolves EFL
c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs
Box H
Wolves University Students
Union
Wulfruna St
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Worthing EFL
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Worthing,
West Sussex, BN13 2BX
01903 562 842
York EFL
c/o Green CND,
Uni of York Union,
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York Y01 5DD
01904 422956
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Support Groups

Corporate Watch
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Dead Trees EFL
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Bristol, BS1 5BB
Earth Liberation Prisoners
c/o Mid-Somerset EFL
P.M.Blackmore@ncl.ac.uk

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372 Coldharbour Lane
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Fax: 0171 737 4031
freedomnet@gm.ac.uk
Actions: 0171 501 9253

Justice? Legal Defence
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6 Tibury Place
Brighton BN2 2GY
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Read Alert!
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Fax: 01635 521660
readalert@gm.ac.uk

Toxic Alert!
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South Wirral, L66 3TX
01978 820819
cats@gm.ac.uk

This list changes regularly. Let us know of alterations, recent ones in bold. If you're underlined let us know you exist 'cos we're trying to print a comprehensive contact update and we don't want to include non-existent groups - this is your last chance or we chop you off!

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